Guide to the Robert Underwood Johnson papers, 1889-1924

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Note
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Collection number: BANC MSS C-B 385

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Collection Summary
Collection Title: Robert Underwood Johnson Papers,
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Collection Number: BANC MSS C-B 385
Creator: Johnson, Robert Underwood, 1853-1937
Extent: Number of containers: 8 boxes (1245 folders),1 oversize folder
Repository: The Bancroft Library.
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Physical Location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.
Abstract: Chiefly concerning conservation of the Yosemite area, including campaign, 1913, against Hetch Hetchy reservoir. Material relating to Sequoia, General Grant and other national parks and to forest reserves included. A few printed items: reports, circulars, copies of laws, etc., with the papers. Includes 146 letters of John Muir and letters from General and Mrs. John Bidwell, Mr. and Mrs. James Mason Hutchings, Charles D. Robinson, George G. Mackenzie, Edward T. Parsons, William E. Colby, Charles Howard Shinn, and other Californians, and John W. Noble, Gifford Pinchot, Oliver Wolcott Gibbs, Henry Fairfield Osborn, Theodore Roosevelt. George Bird Grinnell and others prominent on the national scene.
Languages Represented: English
Access
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Printed Material
California. Commissioners to manage the Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Big Tree Grove. Report, 1866-7 (San Francisco. Towne & Bacon, 1868).
California. Commissioners to manage the Yosemite Valley ... Rules, Regulations and By-Laws ... (Sacramento ... 1885)
Rules and Regulations of the Yosemite National Park (Facsimile signature, John W. Noble, Secretary of the Interior).
McLean, John T. Statement concerning Senate Bill no. 2708 and House Bill no. 7712 ... [1896]
Manson, Marsden. A statement of San Francisco's side of the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir matter ... Dec. 30, 1909.
The Water Users Association of the Modesto and Turlock Irrigation Districts ... Available sources of water supply for San Francisco ... [1913?]
Miller, Clement H. Address ... before the San Francisco Center of the California Civic League ... 1913.
Chittenden, H. M. Forests and reservoirs ... 1908 (reprinted from the American Society of Civil Engineers. Proceedings, v. xxiv, p. 924[?]).
U.S. Department of the Interior. Report of the Advisory Board of Army Engineers to the Secretary of the Interior ... relative to sources of water supply for San Francisco ... 1913.
Boone and Crockett Club. Brief History ... with officers, constitution and list of members for the year 1910.

Maps
Le Conte, John N. (Compiled for the Sierra Club) -1893: Map of a portion of the Sierra Nevada adjacent to the King's River.
Le Conte, John N. (Compiled for the Sierra Club) -1893: Map of a portion of the Sierra Nevada adjacent to Yosemite and Hetch Hetchy Valleys.

Biography
Robert Underwood Johnson, author, conservationist, and diplomat, was born in New York in 1853. For more than forty years he was associated with The Century Magazine. Associate Editor under Richard Watson Gilder, he succeeded to the editorship from 1909-1913. In 1920-1921 he served as Ambassador to Italy and represented the United States at the San Remo Conference. After his return to this country he devoted himself chiefly to the publication of poetry and his memoirs, Remembered Yesterdays, until his death in 1937.

In the summer of 1889, Johnson came to California to organize a series of articles for The Century. He met John Muir and with him visited Yosemite—an experience which profoundly influenced his life. He spent the next twenty five years actively promoting all the movements to safeguard the natural beauty of the West. He aided campaigns to make Yosemite Valley and the Sequoia Big Tree groves National Parks. In 1913, he spearheaded in the East the unsuccessful fight to preserve the Hetch Hetchy Valley from becoming the reservoir for San Francisco’s water supply.

Scope and Content
His voluminous papers were sold by his family. Unsuccessful in disposing of the papers as a unit, the dealer who acquired them divided them into groups to facilitate their sale. The Bancroft Library purchased in 1950-1951 from Mary A. Benjamin that portion which dealt with California and Johnson's interest in conservations.
There are relatively few copies of Johnson's own letters in the collection. Of these, by far the largest portion consists of carbon copies of letters written in 1913 in the Hetch Hetchy campaign. The 146 letters of John Muir are, of course, the most important segment. There are, also, letters from General and Mrs. John Bidwell, Mr. and Mrs. James Mason Hutchings, Charles D. Robinson, George G. Mackenzie, Edward T. Parsons, William E. Colby, Charles Howard Shinn, and other Californians, and John W. Noble, Gifford Pinchot, Oliver Wolcott Gibbs, Henry Fairfield Osborn, Theodore Roosevelt, George Bird Grinnell and others prominent on the national scene.
Because of the importance of individual correspondents, the letters have been arranged alphabetically. A listing of the correspondents by year (appended) has been made to preserve as far as was practical some chronological aspect of the
## Guide to the Robert Underwood Johnson papers, 1889-1924

**Box 1**  
Correspondence A-Cl

**Box 2**  
Correspondence Co-Hal

**Box 3**  
Correspondence Ham-Mar

**Box 4**  
Correspondence Mau-Olm

**Box 5**  
Correspondence Oln-Rob

**Box 6**  
Correspondence Roo-Wh

**Box 7**  
Correspondence Wi-Z  
Robert Underwood Johnson and Mrs. Johnson, miscellaneous papers

**Box 8**  
Miscellaneous papers

**portfolio**  
Muir maps of Yosemite

**1889**

- Davis, Horace
- Leighton, Rufus
- Mills, William H.
- Robinson, Charles D.
- Shinn, Charles Howard

**1890**

- Armes, William Dallam
- Armstrong, James B.
- Bidwell, John (and Mrs. Bidwell)
- Chichester, Charles F.
- Deming, Lucius P.
- Edmunds, J.
- Grinnell, George Bird
- Groff, Lewis A.
- Hutchings, James Mason
- Irish, John P.
- Lathrop, George Parsons
- Mackenzie, George G.
- Newsham, Thomas J.
- Noble, John Willock
- Plumb, Preston P.
- Robinson, Charles D.
- Royce, Josiah
- Scidmore, Eliza (Ruhamah)
- Shinn, Charles Howard
- Spinney, George F.
- Stiles, W.A.
- Stock, Ernest C.
- Ward, Augustus H.

**1891**

- Barnard, A.F. (Mrs. John K.)
- Brown, John Nicholas
- Carter, Thomas H.
- Chandler, George
- Crippen Kate M.
- Field, Kate
- Fiske, George
- Ford, William Warwick
- Fox, John
- Grinnell, George Bird
- Hague, Arnold
Harrison, J.B.
Hittell, John Shertzer
Johnstone, E. McD.
Lyman, Hart
Noble, John Willock
Robinson, Charles D.
Royce, Josiah
Shinn, Charles Howard
Sprague, George E.
Stiles, W.A.
U.S. Dept. Of Interior (Chief Clerk E.M. Dawson) - filed under Dawson
Waite, Edwin G.
Ward, Augustus H.

1892
Bidwell, Annie (Mrs. John)
Bishoprick, N.J.
Carter, Thomas H.
Grinnell, George Bird
Irish, John Powell
Noble, John Willock
Robinson, Charles D.
Stidger, John S.
Watd, Augustus H.
Weigel, Eugene F.

1893
Allen F.B.
Bowers, Edward A.
Carey, John Maull
Chandler, George
Coliman, O.J.
Dawson, E.M.
Fernow, Bernhard Eduard
Grant, Lewis Addison
Grinnell, George Bird
Hague, Arnold
Hawley, Joseph Roswell
Hutchings, Emilia A. (Mrs. James M.)
Irish, John Powell
Jordan, David Starr
Lamont, Daniel Scott
Leupp, Francis Ellington
Lyman, Hart
Noble, John Willock
Olney, Richard
Platt, Orville Hitchcock
Robinson, Charles D.
Shinn, Milicent Washburn
Smith, Hoke
Stevens, William H.
Stiles, W.A.
Thurber, Henry T.
Ward, Augustus H.
Williams, Elliot

1894
Miller, Charles Ransom
Sargent, Charles Sprague

1895
American Forestry Association
California Secretary of State
Gardner, Frank Saltus
Olmsted, John Charles
Pinchot, Gifford
1896
Bowers, Edward A.
Gibbs, Oliver Wolcott
McAllister, Elliott
Pinchot, Gifford
Sargent, Charles Sprague
Sierra Club, San Francisco
White, T. Brook
1897
Kasson, John Adam
1898
Allison, William Boyd
Bliss, Cornelius Newton
DeVries, Marion
Hale, Eugene
Hermann, Binger
Lacey, John Fletcher
Lodge, Henry Cabot
McAneny, George
Mackenzie, George G.
Platt, Orville Hitchcock
Quay, Matther Stanley
Reed, Thomas Brackett
Rothrock, Joseph Trimble
Sargent, Charles Sprague
Sayers, Joseph Draper
Stone, William Alexis
Zerely, J.W.
1899
Hague, Arnold
1900-01
No letters
1902
Sargent, Charles Sprague
1903
Barnes, Benjamin F.
Pinchot, Gifford
1904
Perkins, George Clement
Pinchot, Gifford
Roosevelt, Theodore
1905
Gibbs, Oliver Wolcott (in margin of Johnson to Gibbs)
Loeb, William
Millard, Bailey
Pinchot, Gifford
Roosevelt, Theodore
1906
Pinchot, Gifford
Strother, Edgar French
1907
Colby, William Edward
Chronological listing of correspondents

Hughes, Charles Evans
Pinchot, Gifford (and his secretary, Harry L. Hill)
Wells, Philip Patterson

1908
Bowers, Edward A. (and his sister, Fannie A. Bowers)
Carnegie, Andrew
Chittenden, Hiram Martin
Colby, William Eduard
Hague, Arnold
Hough, Romeyn Beck
Hughes, Charles Evans
Loeb, William
McGee, William John (Intro. To Proceedings of Governors' Conference ...)
Mendenhall, Thomas Corwin
Pinchot, Gifford
Rhodes, James Ford
Roosevelt, Theodore
Sargent, Charles Sprague
Shipp, Thomas R.
Walcott, Charles Doolittle
Ward, Augustus H.
Wheeler, Benjamin Ide
Will, Thomas Elmer

1909
American Forestry Assn. (J.A.P. Farnham)
Badè, William Frederic
Bowers, Edward A.
Brougham, H. B.
Colby, William Edward (Sierra Club)
Fife, George Buchanan
Foster, Samuel Lynde
Gleason, Herbert W.
Kolb, Charles A.
Luebkert, Otto
McFarland, John Horace
McGee, William John
Martin, Thomas Commerford
Miller, Charles Ransom
Olmsted, John Charles
Parsons, Edward T.
Shipp, Thomas Roerty
Van Dyke, Henry
Whitney, Caspar
Will, Thomas Elmer

1910
Badè, William Frederic
Ballinger, Richard Achilles
Carpenter, Fred W.
Colby, William Edward
Dargan, Olive
Gregory, Henry E.
Laut, Agnes C.
McFarland, John Horace
Watrous, Richard Benedict
Whitman, Edmund Allen

1911
Fisher, Walter L.
Hilles, Charles Dewey
Norton, Charles Dyer
Osborn, Henry Fairfield
Roosevelt, Theodore

1912
Adams, Samuel
Fisher, Walter L.
Harrison, Francis Burton
Long, Percy Vincent
Meany, Edmond Stephen
Shinn, Charles Howard

1913
Allen, Edward W.
Ammon, Sameul A.
Ashbough, Lewis E.
Aston, Taggart
Badè, William Frederic
Balmers, Edwin
Barenrdt, Arthur H.
Barker, Henry Ames
Barrow, David Crenshaw
Bayne, Samuel Gamble
Beal, Junius Emory
Becker, Dorothy E.
Boardman, Mabel Thorp
Bobbs, William Conrad
Borah, William Edgar
Bowers, Claude Gernade
Bowers, Edward Augustus
Bowles, Samuel
Brandegee, Gfrank Bosworth
Branson, I R.
Braucher, Howard S.
Bridgman, Herbert Lawrence
Books, John Pascal
Brown, Alice M.
Burnham, John Bird
Burton, Theodore Elijah
Carpenter, Ford Ahman
Chamberlain, Allen
Chamberlain, George Earle
Colby, William Edards
Colquitt, Neyle
Colt, Le Baron Bradford
Crocker, Mrs. Emmons
Crow, Martha Foote
Davis, Milton Fennimore
Delano, Julia
Dellenbaugh, Frederick Samuel
DeVelbiss, Frank J.
Dickinson, F. E.
Dodds, Alexander
Drapeau, Louis C.
Drinker, Henry Sturgis
Dunn, Russell L.
Dunnigan, John S.
Eckstorm, Fennie (Hardy)
Eliot, Charles William
Elliott, Henry W.
Ely, M.W. (Sec. to H.S. Graves)
Fernow, Bernhard Eduard
Ferris, Scott
Fitch, George H.
Forbes, Edgar Allen
Freeman, John Ripley
Fuller, Hubert Bruce
Gallinger, Jacob Harold
Gardner, Obadiah
Garfield, James Rudolph
George, Charles E.
Gleason, Herbert W.
Graves, Henry Solon
Gray, Henry G.
Gregory, Henry E.
Grinnell, George Bird
Gronna, Asle J.
Hadley, Hiram
Hall, Edward Hagaman
Hampson, Alden
Hanna, Paul
Harrison, Francis Burton
Hart, Albert Bushnell
Havens, Munson
Hawes, Austin Foster
Hobson, Richmond Pearson
Hollis, Henry French
Holt, Hamilton
Hooper, Franklin William
Hornaday, William Temple
Houston, David Franklin
Hughes, William
Hurt, Huber William
Ingersoll, Ernest
James, Edward Janes
Jones, Herschell Vespasian
Kelley, Edgar Stillman
Kern, John Worth
Kunz, George Frederick
LaFollette, Rovert Marion, 1855-1925
Lane, Franklin Knight
Lay, Charles Downing
Laylin, Lewis Cass
Lehane, W.C.
Lenz, Rudolph
Levy, Glorencence N.
Lewis, James Hamilton
Kitchfield, Grace Denio
Lodge, Henry Cabot
Loughran, Patrick H.
Lowell, Abbott Lawrence
Lowes, John Livingston
Lyman, William Denison
Lyon, Mrs. Frank D.
McAdoo, William Gibbs
McDonald, Henry M.
Macfarland, Henry Floyd
McFarland, John Horace
McGowan, Pattillo H.
McLean, George Payne
Mann, James Robert
Manning, Warren Henry
Marshall, Eleanor Eltinge
Martin, Frederick Roy
Martin, Thomas Commerford
Martine, James Edgar
Mezes, Sidney Edward
Miller, Clement H.
Mitchell, John Murray
Mondell, Frank Wheeler
Moore, John Bassett
Morgenthau, Henry
Myers, Henry Lee
Nelson, H.W.
Nelson, William Rockhill
Nichols, Marian C.
Noble, Frederic Perry
Noel, Edmund Favor
O’Gorman, James Aloysius
Olmedest, Frederick Law, 1870-
Osborn, Henry Fairfield
Osborne, Grover Pease
Owen, Rovert Latham
Page, Carroll Smalley
Parsons, Edward T.
Parsons, Herbert
Parsons, Samuel
Pennybacker, Anna J. (Hardwicke)
Pinchot, Gifford
Poindexter, Miles
Quarles, E.A.
Ranous, Dora Knowlton (Thompson)
Redfield, William C.
Rhodes, James Ford
Ridsdale, Percival Shelden
Royce, Josiah
Ruckstuhl, F.W.
Sargent, Charles Sprague
Schell, Edwin Allison
Schuyler, Georgina
Schwarz, George Frederick
Scidmore, Eliza (Ruhmahah)
Sedgwick, Henry Dwight
Semple, Helen Merrick
Sherman, Lawrence Y.
Shorter, H.J.
Slattery, Harry A.
Sloane, William Milligan
Smith, Byron Laflin
Smith, Geddes
Smith, Henry Louis
Smith, Hoke
Smoot, Reed
Stafford, John Richard
Steenerson, Halvor
Stiger, William D.
Stone, Melville Elijah
Sullivan, Eugene J.
Swain, George Fillmore
Sweet, Mary Caroline
Taft, William Howard
Towner, Horace Mann
Tumulty, Joseph Patrick
Underwood, Oscar Wilder
VanWagoner, J. D.
Villard, Oswald Garrison
Wadsworth, William Austin
Wadsworth, H. H.
Washington, William DeHertburn
Watrous, Richard Benedict
Webb, Charles A.
Weeks, John Wingate
Wells, Amos Russel
Whitman, Edmund Allen
Whitney, Caspar
Wilson, Woodrow
Wyvell, Manton M.

1914
Anderson, E.H.
Badè, William Frederic
Bridgman, Herbert Lawrence
Colby, William Edward
Conrad, W. J. (On Johnson's letter)
Davis, Milton Fennimore
Frothingham, E. H.
Hall, Edward Hagaman
Olmsted, Frederick Law, 1870-
Parsons, Edward T.
Parsons, Herbert
Smith, Emory E.

1915
No letters

1916
Blake, Jacob M.

1917-1919
No letters

1920
Rhodes, James Ford

1921
No letters

1922
Badè, William Frederic
Grinnell, George Bird

1923
Butler, Ovid M.
Drury, Newton Bishop
Fenton, Benjamin W.
Maudlin, Cecil Vearl
Sargent, Charles Sprague
Shinn, Charles Howard  
1924  
Badè, William Frederic  
Butler, Ovid M.  
Peyton, Jeannie S.